

I. WHAT GOD HAS ASKED US TO DO

- A. Our main assignment is to exalt Jesus with night and day worship and prayer until He finds a place of rest on our region. This means we pursue the building and keeping of a sanctuary from which everything else we do flows out of. It is our centerpiece.

Psalm 132:5 Until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.

2 Chronicles 6:8 But the Lord said to my father David, Whereas if was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart.

- B. Laboring and working for God to find a place of rest in our region is rooted in knowing that God takes joy in us giving ourselves to this endeavor with Him.

II. FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD/ INTIMACY WITH GOD

- A. We begin the journey into the knowledge of God by asking God to reveal Himself to us. The Holy Spirit enables our human capacities to receive more of God. This cannot be reduced to our minds only receiving new ideas but asking for divine revelation of God.

Eph 1:17 that the God of Lord Jesus Christ , the Father of glory may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.

- B. Introductory knowledge of God is the free gift of Salvation, but God wants to take people into intimacy. Men and women growing in their affection and receiving affection from God.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to You....”

- C. Salvation is free, the deep things of God are given according to hunger for them. *Proverbs 25:2* The concept is likened to the phrase; “The hungry get more hungry, the richer get richer” *Mark 4:25*. If you and I can live without Him, we will, If we can’t , we will have Him in time

Prov 2:1-5 If you seek for her as silver and search for her as hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

- D. This begins with the knowledge of God. We call this the study of God, or knowing God. We may have been doing this for 10, 15 or 20 years or longer but when we consider Who it is we are getting to know, we are all babies in the process. We will never begin to exhaust Who God is.

- E. We become masters at many things, we have experts at so many things in our world that we can even begin to adopt this mentality when it comes to knowing God.

III. KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS AS A BRIDEGROOM WITH AFFECTIONS FOR US

- A. The Bridegroom God is a term Jesus used to describe Himself. Jesus likened Himself to a Bridegroom (Mt. 9:15), His Kingdom to a wedding (Mt. 22:2), described the ministry as those encountering Him as a Bridegroom (Mt. 25:1) and will return in answer to the intercessory prayer of His Church with a bridal identity (Rev. 22:17).

Mt 25:1 Then the Kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet Him as the bridegroom. Matthew 25:1

- B. God desires to be with us in spite of our weakness, wanderings and frailties. God will have voluntary lovers and He knows humans will only be motivated to long term obedience if we feel what He feels for us. ***Psalm 110:3 ...volunteers in the day of Your power***

Song of Solomon 1:5 “ I am dark but lovely.”

1 Jn 4:19 “...He first loved us.”

Is 62:5“And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.”

- C. God created humans with the capacity to receive emotions and affections. This is what makes the human spirit so magnificent, that we can receive that and return it back to Him. The church has many different spiritual identities, ie, Family, Army, Body, Temple and the Bride. Knowing that God is filled with gladness and affection toward His people will be the primary motivation in everything the church does.

Psalm 36:8 They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.

- D. We can live confidently that our steady and faithful devotion to Him conquers His heart. The God who is conquered by nothing, has become conquered by our devotion. Our love back to Him has a prevailing effect on His love. He sees the dim look, as we are tested, we stay steady.

Song of Solomon 6:5 Turn your eyes away from me, For they have overcome me

IV. CULTIVATING YOUR LIFE WITH GOD – THE NEED FOR OIL IN OUR LAMPS

Matt 25:2-4 Five of them were wise and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps

- A. The term getting oil speaks of cultivating your secret life with God. Our spiritual capacity expands and our desire for Him enlarges, our revelation of God’s beauty grows and our zeal or jealousy for God increases.
- B. The foolish took their lamps , ***but took no oil-*** speaks of pursuing public ministry over cultivating a secret life with God. Lamps speak of our ministry, the things that bring God’s light to others. ***Prv.20:27*** spirit of man, ***Isa 62:1*** salvation a lamp that burns. The foolish pursued ways to increase their ministry with greater zeal than pursuing closeness with God.
- C. The wise took oil in their lamps- speaks of pursuing a secret life with God.
- D. Friendship with God, Intimacy with God releases power on our inner man because we discover who God is a tender bridegroom.